XProcRef

Internal documentation

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1   Introduction

Figure 1-1 - The XProcRef logo

XprocRef is an initiative to publish a website with descriptions for the XProc (3.0 and later) steps in a more user-friendly way than in the official specification. It is an initiative of Erik Siegel (Xatapult Content Engineering).

There is an underlying reason for this. In 2020 I published a book called "XProc 3.0 - Programmer Reference" (for sale here):
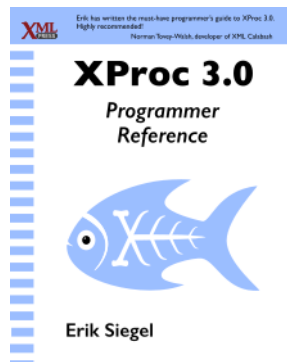

Figure 1-2 - The XProc Programmer reference book cover

Appendices A and B in the book describe the step library. However, due to time constraints, the step descriptions were copied from the formal XProc specification. This leaves much to be desired for users of the language: the specification is aimed at XProc processor *implementers*, not at language *users*. To correct this, this site contains reference information about the XProc steps, written from a more user-oriented perspective. With the increasing popularity of XProc, I hope this fills a need.

2   Technical overview

The website

- XProcRef (https://xprocref.org) is a static website containing descriptions of XProc steps. It is hosted as a GitHub Pages site from its GitHub repository https://github.com/xatapult/xprocref.
- It uses Bootstrap 5.2.2
- All static website resources (CSS, JavaScript, etc.) can be found underneath `xprocref/web-resources/`. This all is copied verbatim to the final website.
- The template used to produce the actual web pages is: `xprocref/web-templates/default-template.html`.

The markup language

- All is generated from an XML source: `xprocref/src/xprocref.src.main.xml`
- This source uses an XProcRef specific markup language that is, more or less, described in this document.
    - A W3C XML Schema for the markup language is in: `xprocref/xsd/xprocref.xsd`
    - A Schematron Schema for the markup language with additional validations is in: `xprocref/sch/xprocref.sch`
- For the content/text parts of the markup, DocBook 5 is used. XprocRef adds several extension elements to provide for things like step cross-references, special markup, etc.

Processing the markup into the website

- This markup language is processed into a static website by an XProc 3.0 pipeline: `xprocref/xpl3/process-xprocref.xpl`.

> The pipelines are currently (2024-07-05) processed by the MorganaXproc-III EE (Enterprise Edition) processor. The SE (Standard Edition) processor will not do the job because some steps are used that are available in the EE version only.

- Processing makes heavy use of the facilities provided some other open source components published by Xatapult Content Engineering:
    - Xtpxlib Common
    - Xtpxlib Container
    - Xtpxlib Xdoc
- To ease the processing, there are some other pipelines that drive the main `process-xprocref.xpl` with the right set of options and port connections:
    - To produce a *test* version of the website (with all steps, also the unpublished ones): `xprocref/xpl3/process-xprocref-test.xpl`

        The test version is build in `xprocref/build` (which Git will ignore).
    - To produce a *production* version of the website (only the published steps): `xprocref/xpl3/process-xprocref-production.xpl`

        The production version is build in `xprocref/docs` (the default directory used for the GitHub Pages site).

        > The production pipeline currently (2024-07-05) sets an option `wip` to `true`, causing a "work in progress" warning on every page. Turn this off when the website is complete (if ever…).

Testing/Playing

- Facilities to play around with the markup language and for testing features are in `xprocref/test`.

3   The XProcRef markup language

3.1   XprocRef DocBook sections

Using Markdown, using xdoc extensions

3.1.1   XprocRef specific extensions

All the elements